Delmarva Raptors Board Meeting Minutes

2/27/2023

Board Members in Attendance: Lance Massey, Bobby Walls, Dan Wheeler, Kristyn Clifton, Patrick Boyle & Tara Boos

1. Commissioner’s Report-Bobby reported the evaluation dates, which are listed on social media and Raptor’s webpage. Players do not need to attend both tryouts but can if they want to. For 12U and up we are trying to have independent evaluators and parents will be at a meeting with coaches and board members during tryouts. We understand that the 14U and up tryouts are during Spring Break but these are the dates we are given by the Rink and also we have to follow USA hockey rules for the timing of the tryouts. \
2. Scheduler’s Report-Dan congratulated the 12U Blue team for winning the DVHL playoff and going to districts. We also congratulated the 10U Blue team for coming in 2nd in playoff and for 14U Blue making playoffs. We were the only organization to send three teams at the A division to playoffs. Chris Koch suggested putting out 12Us district schedule to membership so Raptors can attend if they are able. It is held at IceWorks in Aston the weekend of 3/10. We will advertise on social media once we have schedule.
   1. Tournaments-Dan discussed that we would like to have our organization wide tournament be in Nashville next year. We are planning on taking 7 or 8 teams and will reserve as soon as possible.
   2. Youth Open Hockey-This is offered at the rink from March-May—check the rink site for dates, times & registration. This is a good way to prepare for evaluations and stay on the ice.
3. Secretary Report-Tara reported that each Raptor team will have their own party this year. We have reviewed the budget and each team will get ??? per team towards the party. Chris Koch and George Bradley suggested that we get standardized metals for the entire organization to commemorate the inaugural season of Raptors. Board has decided ????
4. Registrar Report-Kristyn reported that we have sold approximately 450 of the 500 Thunder tickets, so this fundraiser has been profitable to Raptors.
   1. She reported that only 18 coaches applications have been received and this year we had 38 coaches. Please get your applications in as soon as possible so we may review them and plan for next year. We will also advertise this on social media.
   2. She also reported that as of now we only have received 18 Raptor’s Reflections regarding this season and there are 140 kids in the organization. The board wants membership feedback so we can do better and address the organizations needs. This feedback is important so the organization can improve.
5. President Report-Lance discussed that we will be putting out an application for a new Vice President since Chad Everett stepped away from the position. We would like to have that filled as soon as possible and before evaluations. Chad will be the new hockey director, which per the bylaws is a position appointed by the President. Lance discussed the upcoming hockey/skating classes/events at the rink—Gritty Not Pretty for 12U and up, Stick and Puck, & Powerskating—information and registration is on the rink’s website.
6. Treasurer’s Report-Patrick reported that we have approximately $7000 in account after expenses. We will need these funds for the Nashville tournament deposits and to assist teams with their parties for the end of the year. If we did not fundraise or have sponsorships we would not have had any money remaining. We did not budge for the DVHL playoff fees of roughly $2400 so next year we will build that into our budget.
7. Open Discussion-
   1. Kristen Parson’s discussed fundraising ideas. Kristen has worked hard on fundraising this year but got a late start as she did not take position until November. She would like to do more fundraising over the summer if we can get the participation, which has been minimal for some fundraisers.
      1. Jon Stoltzfus suggested a cornhole tournament as that was done in the past by the Stars. It was a well-attended event and there were vendors at the event as well. We could have Raptors cornhole boards to auction etc.
   2. Raptors have signed up to have a table at I Love Lake Forest Day in May-we will need people to volunteer to man the table there.
   3. Issues with the Rink-We are the largest customer of the rink and the rink is lacking in many areas. Bathrooms are not cleaned, snack bar is never open/has minimal options/store is not open during games, etc. We would like to meet with the Delaware State Fair Board/Bill DiMondi to see if we can get more from the rink and if they can upgrade somethings. We would like the rink to stay open all year in the future.
   4. We have added some extra practices for the 3 teams that still have tournaments-we will put on TeamSnap
   5. There was a discussion regarding the swing players on the 14u teams. We know if was hard on the 14u White team as games were cancelled, tournaments were cancelled by the organization etc and they had to have the assistance of 14U blue players to make a team so those kids had more games. Based on numbers we should have 2 full 14u teams next year as well as one pure 16u team and a 16u/18u combo team. We did not want to have the 3 18us not have a place to play at the end of their youth hockey years. There should not have to be the overlap as there was this year.
   6. We also discussed the 10u White teams struggles in the DVHL. This year there will be a jamboree for 10u and 12u as well as mites to discuss the correct placement of teams. DVHL had an issue this year since so many team left and went to the AHF that there was not longer two A divisions and two B divisions. They want to address it by the jamboree. A league is good for us since we are an hour from any other rink and it guarantees games so we don’t have the issues 14u White has had with cancelled games.
   7. Jon Stoltzfus discussed that a friend of his in Lancaster’s organization does a practice only option for newer kids. They practice every day with team and can come to games and sit on bench but they are not able to play in games until coach believes they are ready. This will help some of the newer kids on older teams since we do not have enough kids for an inhouse programs and we are geographically isolated from other rinks. He said that he it worked great there and that has allowed more kids to try hockey. The fee for these players would be reduced. We have had a few kids do this but not in a formal way.